

The Joy of His Arrival

December 16, 2012

LUKE 1:39-56

Vol. 2 Num. 50

Core Competency:

Joy- I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

You love Him, though you have not seen Him. And though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8-9)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate really matter, so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

❸ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

Introduction

Many people have heard that JOY means Jesus first, Others next, and Yourself last. But in a Christmas sermon in 1998, Pastor Phil Toole of Mountain Valley Community Church of Scottsdale, Arizona, put it different.

Jesus

O

You

“The ‘J’ stands for Jesus,” said Pastor Toole. “The ‘Y’ stands for you. Do you know what the ‘O’ stands for? It stands for zero. Just what it says—nothing. What I am saying here is the way to stay close to Jesus and keep joy in your heart is let nothing between Jesus and you.”

I like that. Jesus said “The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him, and reveal myself to him.” (John 14:21)

The Bible teaches that there is an inextricable link between obedient faith and joy.

This Week

The opening chapters of Luke highlight this truth vividly. In contrast to Zechariah, who did not exercise obedient faith, his son John, did—while still in the womb! Mary, the mother of Jesus, also demonstrated obedient faith in God's word and the joy that welled up in her effervescently broke forth in the “Magnificent,” her spirit filled exaltation of God.

Discover this week the relationship between joy and obedient faith, and how you can know the joy of the Lord in your life

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate really matter, so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Read Luke

39 In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah

40 where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 Then she exclaimed with a loud cry: "You are the most blessed of women, and your child will be blessed!

43 How could this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 For you see, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped for joy inside me!

45 She who has believed is blessed because what was spoken to her by the Lord will be fulfilled!"

46 And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

48 because He has looked with favor on the

humble condition of His slave. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and His name is holy.

50 His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him.

51 He has done a mighty deed with His arm; He has scattered the proud because of the thoughts of their hearts;

52 He has toppled the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

53 He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped His servant Israel, mindful of His mercy,

55 just as He spoke to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever.

56 And Mary stayed with her about three months; then she returned to her home.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others>

1. Why do you think keeps many Christians from sharing their faith? What about verbally praising God (especially corporately)?
2. This may seem like an obvious question, but why does obedient faith (belief, confidence, assurance) in God's word produce joy (vv. 41, 44-47; cf. Acts 5:33; Rom 15:13)?
3. Do you see a lack of joy as a sign of (1) a lack of obedient faith, or (2) a lack of perspective, or (3) both, or (4) neither? Explain.

5. Notice how many times in the New Testament (especially the writings of Luke) that the act of being filled with the Holy Spirit always demonstrates itself in a joyful, verbal response by the recipient. In each passage below, identify the type of verbal response prompted by the Holy Spirit:

Luke 1:41-43:	Acts 7:55
Luke 1:67	Acts 9:17, 20
Acts 2:4	Acts 13:9
Acts 4:8	Acts 13:48, 52
Acts 4:31	Eph 5:18-21

6. What does John 14: 21; 15:10-11, 1 John 3:24 reveal about the relationship between the Holy Spirit, joy, and obedience?
7. Based on this study, what reasons contribute to people NOT:
- a) Being filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - b) Being filled with joy?

Sermon Notes:

3LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

Discuss in your Life Group the degree to which you now experience joy. Share with others what contributes to this experience and end in prayer. Pray a prayer of praise for those who are filled with joy, and a prayer of petition and healing for those that are struggling.

The purpose of THE PARCHEMENTS is to help you develop beliefs, practices, and virtues of a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ called the 30 Core Competencies through your own active reading of the Bible. Send any questions and or comments you may have about this lesson to church@clbc-houston.org.

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *1 Peter 1:8-9*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.